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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications
for international peace, security and development**

**Status of internally displaced persons and refugees
from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/
South Ossetia, Georgia**

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/268, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and draws on information received from a number of United Nations entities.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the resolution, the report focuses on: (a) the right of return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity; (b) the prohibition of forced demographic changes; (c) humanitarian access; (d) the importance of preserving the property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons; and (e) the development of a timetable to ensure the prompt voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

II. Background

3. Following an escalation in conflict in 1992, which caused significant displacement of civilians, armed hostilities between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides ended with the signing in Moscow on 14 May 1994 of the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (see S/1994/583 and Corr.1). That agreement was preceded by the signing in Moscow on 4 April 1994 of the quadripartite agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons (see S/1994/397), in which the parties agreed to cooperate and interact in planning and conducting activities to safeguard and guarantee the safe, secure and dignified return of people who had fled from areas in the conflict zone to the areas of their previous permanent residence. Armed hostilities between the Georgian and South Ossetian sides ended with the 24 June 1992 Sochi Agreement, which established a ceasefire between the Georgian and South Ossetian forces and the creation of the Joint Control Commission and Joint Peacekeeping Forces.

4. Following the hostilities that started in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, on 7 and 8 August 2008, the six-point plan of 12 August 2008 and the implementing measures of 8 September 2008 (see S/2008/631, paras. 7-15), international discussions were launched in Geneva on 15 October 2008, co-chaired by representatives of the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (see S/2009/69 and Corr.1, paras. 5-7). The international discussions were to address the issues of security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. By the end of the reporting period, 27 rounds of the Geneva international discussions had been held, with participants meeting in two parallel working groups.

5. In June 2011, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/288, approved the budget for the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions. The establishment of a special political mission has facilitated the continued engagement of the United Nations in the Geneva process. The United Nations Representative and his team are responsible for preparing, in consultation with the co-chairs, the sessions of the Geneva international discussions. In December 2013, the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/248 A, appropriated the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for special political missions,

including for the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions. Moreover, in my report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327), I included among the proposed resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, which has an open-ended mandate.

6. The United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions and his team are also responsible for preparing, convening and facilitating the periodic meetings of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism under United Nations auspices in Gali (see S/2009/254, paras. 5 and 6). The last (35th) meeting of the Mechanism took place on 23 March 2012, and the Mechanism has not been resumed since. Unfortunately, multiple efforts to resume the Mechanism had not yielded results by the end of the reporting period. I call upon all participants to leave political issues aside and to focus on the important conflict prevention nature of the Mechanism with a view to resuming the meetings of the Mechanism as soon as possible. As long as the Mechanism remains suspended, the risk of escalation in incidents on the ground exists. In the meantime, until the meetings of the Mechanism are resumed, the United Nations Representative will continue his bilateral engagement with all stakeholders with a view to keeping communication open and continuing his incident prevention efforts.

7. During the reporting period, participants in Working Group I of the Geneva international discussions continued to discuss the security situation on the ground, with concerns expressed with regard to the installation of fences and excavation of ditches along the administrative boundary line, detentions, procedures for crossings and criminal activities, such as kidnappings for the purpose of ransom collection. They also continued discussions on the key issues of the non-use of force and international security arrangements. International obligations constraining the use or threat of force, without prejudice to the right of individual or collective self-defence, are embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments. There were also discussions on steps in the direction of the non-use of force, including unilateral statements by all relevant stakeholders. I would encourage all relevant participants to engage constructively on the issue of the non-use of force.

8. During the reporting period, Working Group II continued to address the situation of displaced persons, including their right of return and other durable solutions, as well as the humanitarian needs of all affected populations and possible humanitarian responses. Continued efforts were made to reach consensus on a framework document affirming the fundamental, internationally recognized principles governing the treatment of displaced persons, the need for humanitarian access and the importance of voluntary return in safety and dignity. While, regrettably, some participants in the Working Group disengaged from work on the framework document, as well as from discussions on the issue of return, I note with satisfaction that all participants in the deliberations expressed their commitment to respecting human rights. Furthermore, I remain encouraged by the constructive engagement by all participants on issues such as freedom of movement, access to basic social services and the provision of other assistance to support vulnerable populations.

9. Working Group II also systematically reviewed the situation on the ground and discussed possible humanitarian measures to address the specific needs of internally displaced persons. Several participants gave a briefing on the humanitarian, infrastructure and development programmes and projects that they were undertaking.

10. Participants continued to exchange views on the human rights situation on the ground. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) remained committed to pursuing its proposal for a technical mission in line with the purpose and principles outlined in my previous report (see A/67/869, para. 10). I took note that only the Government of Georgia responded positively to the OHCHR proposal. I invite all stakeholders to ensure access for and to share relevant information with OHCHR and the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as well as to uphold the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all affected people. OHCHR continues to receive allegations concerning, inter alia, impediments to freedom of movement, including of internally displaced persons, to the enjoyment of property rights and to access to religious and cultural sites and education, arbitrary arrests in areas adjacent to the administrative boundary line and poor conditions of detention in the context of alleged illegal crossings. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will visit Georgia from 19 to 21 May 2014.

11. Another topic that received the sustained attention of all participants was the continued unknown fate of persons who went missing during the conflicts. The understanding shown by all participants of Working Group II for the plight of the families of the missing and the commitments made to engage meaningfully on the issue, in particular by supporting the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is commendable. While many humanitarian issues remain unresolved, the Geneva international discussions continue to offer an opportunity for participants to engage on such issues in a constructive manner and liaise with United Nations humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes located in Geneva.

12. To allow for more informed debates, special information sessions were conducted in conjunction with the formal rounds of the Geneva international discussions, allowing participants to benefit from the experience and advice of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other experts. Participants were given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of, inter alia, humanitarian needs assessment, the value and functions of unilateral commitments and public health issues.

13. While some participants still have some reservations concerning the present format and efficiency of the Geneva international discussions process, ongoing and structured dialogue is crucial to enhancing stability in the region and making progress on the security, humanitarian and other remaining challenges. I reiterate that the Geneva international discussions remain the only forum for relevant stakeholders to meet and address the issues identified in resolution 67/268.

III. Right of return

A. Scope of displacement, return and local integration

14. During the reporting period, the Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia conducted a comprehensive registration of 253,392 internally displaced persons, which identified 19,563 fewer individuals but 1,500 to 2,000 more family groups compared with previous registration data. These data indicate that, while the population of internally displaced persons in Government-controlled areas has decreased, those who remain are marrying and starting families. The generational aspects of displacement in the absence of durable solutions are of concern. During its main phase, which lasted until the end of December 2013, the registration took place in 58 municipalities. Mobile teams visited internally displaced persons who were unable to come to the registration centres: in private residences (3,414 homes), in penitentiary institutions (13 institutions) and in medical institutions (8 institutions). The largest numbers of internally displaced persons were registered in Tbilisi and Zugdidi. The re-registration by the Ministry will continue in its central office in Tbilisi until 31 May 2014.

15. While substantial progress was made towards the local integration and relocation of internally displaced persons, it should be noted that they generally are not able to make free and informed choices as to whether to return or to avail themselves of other durable solutions.

16. A number of families who were previously commuting between Gali and Zugdidi on a seasonal basis moved back to Gali, but no precise data quantifying such individual returns to the Gali region or other parts of Abkhazia are available. The authorities in control continue to deny the return of ethnic Georgian internally displaced persons to locations outside the accepted return areas in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts.

17. With regard to return to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, there is an indication that some individuals have returned from the Russian Federation, in particular from North Ossetia, but efforts undertaken to promote further return, in particular from the Russian Federation, have not yielded major results. The return of internally displaced persons from Georgia has been routinely denied by the authorities in control, apart from return to the Akhagori district, which is possible, at times, for those displaced from that area. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to observe regular movements of people in and out of the Akhagori district. The intention of the authorities in control to introduce new documentation requirements for crossing the administrative boundary line led to rumours and uncertainty among internally displaced persons, who feared being unable to cross in the future. The lack of documentation required for crossing the administrative boundary line continues to impede the movement of and to isolate an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 internally displaced persons from the Akhagori district. The authorities in control have agreed in principle to a case-by-case review of the situation of such persons with a view to considering granting permits for movements across the administrative boundary line, on the basis of lists to be provided by UNHCR.

18. UNHCR remains ready to revive consultations on the return of persons of concern to the Akhlagori district with a view to securing the safe and voluntary nature of any such movement. All stakeholders are encouraged to keep return options open and to abstain from any restrictive measures. Moreover, further steps are needed to ease crossing procedures in the area to allow individuals not only to maintain contact with and follow developments in their home communities, but also to make a free and informed choice as to whether to return or to integrate in areas of displacement or elsewhere.

19. While more than 100,000 individuals who were displaced during the 2008 conflict have returned to their homes, most of them soon after the conflict, 20,272 individuals remain in displacement. A participatory assessment conducted by UNHCR on the reintegration of internally displaced persons who returned to the Shida Kartli region indicated that about 34,000 persons who have returned to these adjacent areas continue to have some specific protection needs and therefore still fall under the responsibility of UNHCR. Apart from the negative effects of the enhanced fencing measures along the administrative boundary line, the physical safety and security of the local population, including returnees, remained relatively stable. However, temporary detentions still occur when farmers intentionally or unintentionally cross into these areas, for example, when visiting graveyards, retrieving stray cattle, attending to irrigation channels or transiting to and from work in their fields. I am pleased that the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meetings of the Ergneti have in some instances helped in negotiating the quick release of arrested farmers in such cases.

20. The primary remaining protection and reintegration challenges relate to shelter rehabilitation needs and limited livelihood opportunities. Additional measures undertaken by the Russian Federation border guards, including the use of fencing and increased patrols, have complicated the maintenance of irrigation channels, blocked traditional access routes and trails and resulted in a general feeling of uncertainty and insecurity. A human security assessment conducted by UNHCR in 55 villages along the administrative boundary line in late 2013 concluded that the majority of the population feels threatened, insecure and worried about their future. The inability to access fields, orchards, traditional grazing grounds, forests and markets has reduced income and employment opportunities and further limited communication and relations between families living on opposite sides of the administrative boundary line. To mitigate the most harmful impact on the survival mechanisms and livelihoods of the population, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and a number of embassies provided winterization assistance as well as targeted individual support to the most vulnerable. The interim governmental commission established by the Government of Georgia to address the needs of affected communities in villages along the dividing line has also mobilized State funds for investment in villages affected by fencing to develop infrastructure relating to irrigation and drinking water, roads, education, agriculture, shelter, heating and health.

21. The Government of Georgia continues to pursue two main goals: the creation of conditions for dignified and safe return and the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of internally displaced persons, serving their integration. The State strategy is complemented by the action plan for internally displaced

persons, now extended until the end of 2014. A further extension of the action plan is being prepared. The Government is in the process of providing durable housing to at least 1,600 families in 2014 while at the same time moving ahead with the privatization of living space already allocated. The Government's legislative reform process over the past 12 months concluded with the entry into force in March 2014 of new legislation regarding internally displaced persons.

22. The new national legislation governing the treatment of internally displaced persons, effective March 2014, has clarified a number of issues and enhanced the protection of this population against discrimination. The Law on the Forcibly Displaced Persons Persecuted from the Occupied Territories of Georgia introduces (a) a definition of internally displaced persons that is more closely aligned with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; (b) the equal treatment of internally displaced persons living in collective centres and private accommodation; (c) an increased monthly allowance for internally displaced persons that remains status-based; and (d) the termination of monthly allowances for internally displaced persons whose income exceeds 1,250 lari per month. It also foresees the issuance of new internally displaced person cards, which now also confirm lawful possession of housing. I reiterate that the rights of all internally displaced persons, as defined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, must be respected and protected in law and in practice.

23. Relocations, and related evictions, conducted in the context of the Government's efforts to provide internally displaced families with durable housing solutions have in the past caused grievances among internally displaced persons. Upon advocacy on the part of UNHCR and other actors, the Government has adjusted its approach and is now offering more housing solutions in urban and economic centres and is trying to avoid relocations from urban areas to more remote locations. The level of dissatisfaction among internally displaced persons regarding the housing offered to them has therefore considerably decreased. Other efforts, such as rural housing projects, which combine the provision of shelter with agricultural land, have expanded the housing options. However, considering the total needs, durable housing solutions remain limited and alternative solutions deserve consideration. The Government's procedures, developed with a view to enhancing the transparency of the selection and allocation process and the rights of internally displaced persons, were generally respected.

24. Given the scale of the displacement, challenges concerning the integration of internally displaced persons remain. The Government of Georgia assessed that, subject to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, by the end of 2014 \$1.3 billion would still be required to meet the remaining housing needs of internally displaced persons. This is the estimated cost of providing some 33,000 families with accommodation in urban areas such as Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi. According to the Government, by March 2014, 119,324 internally displaced persons were still living in collective centres, while 134,068 internally displaced persons lived in private accommodation. It should also be noted that challenges also remain for those in the latter category, as their living conditions in private accommodation are often as bad as or even less favourable than those found in collective centres.

25. Of course, the provision of durable shelter, while essential, is not the only aspect of integration. The socioeconomic aspects, such as sustainable livelihoods and access to quality education, medical and social services, must also be addressed.

While the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, together with donors and other stakeholders, remain engaged and continue to assist the Government in protecting and ensuring the rights of the affected populations, acute humanitarian crises in other parts of the world have had a negative impact on the funding level for humanitarian projects in Georgia. Moreover, further progress in integrating and improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons is becoming less a question of humanitarian response and more a matter of mainstreaming their interests into broader development efforts. As time passes, the non-shelter-related needs of internally displaced persons are increasingly similar to or the same as those of the poorer segments of the population not directly affected by displacement. While the adoption of a livelihood strategy for internally displaced persons is a welcome development, it is now crucial and urgent that the socioeconomic needs of internally displaced persons be addressed alongside those of the local population in the context of national and regional development agendas. The costs of meeting the needs of underdeveloped and impoverished regions are substantial and require increased State budget allocations as well as donor support in order to make a difference that is felt by the population.

26. I would encourage the authorities to ensure that regions hosting displaced populations and internally displaced persons are themselves able to fully benefit from development programmes. In this respect, and in order to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and development activities, UNDP and UNHCR have expanded their joint programme aimed at improving the livelihoods of internally displaced persons and returnees persons beyond Shida Kartli to western Georgia. Preparations are under way for a similar programme for returnees and the local population in Abkhazia.

27. It is estimated that over 45,000 people have returned to their homes in the Gali district. Progress has been made in their reintegration process, although important needs and protection challenges remain. While 1,000 to 1,500 of the most vulnerable returnee families remain in urgent need of assistance, shelter programmes in Abkhazia, with the exception of one programme of the Danish Refugee Council, have come to a halt, following the decision by UNHCR to discontinue shelter support for returnees in 2013 owing to a lack of resources. Among those still displaced, the majority informed UNHCR that one of the most important preconditions for return is shelter assistance. The absence of substantial shelter programmes in Abkhazia is therefore a strong disincentive to return. Those who returned to Abkhazia are officially considered internally displaced persons by the Government of Georgia and as such are eligible for assistance. Seasonal movements related to agricultural activities as well as family visits continued to be observed. Such movements to Abkhazia took place primarily across the administrative boundary line but also directly from the Russian Federation. While more precise and comprehensive, independently verified data on the numbers and profiles of the returnees and on the other conflict-affected communities residing in the Gali district are not available, I call upon the relevant sides to take further steps in order to clarify and acknowledge the number of returnees and to better understand their profile, current situation and remaining vulnerabilities and needs. UNHCR and other relevant United Nations agencies are ready to offer advice and technical assistance in such efforts. Moreover, I encourage all participants in the Geneva international discussions to maximize the use of this forum for the provision and exchange of updated data related to displacement and progress made towards return.

28. During the reporting period, a number of developments had a positive impact on the humanitarian and security situation of the population in the Gali region and on the reintegration prospects of those who had returned or were in the process of doing so. These included a variety of infrastructure and livelihood initiatives financed by the international community, such as the construction of 47 new houses and the rehabilitation of 30 existing houses, repairs to the hospitals in Saberio and Gali town and the construction in Gali of a special playground for children living with disabilities. In the course of 2013, measures financed by the Russian Federation as part of the Complex Plan of Social and Economic Development of Abkhazia included the continuation of the asphaltting and the further improvement of the Psou-Sukhumi road, the rehabilitation of electricity transportation infrastructure and the repair of schools, hospitals and other social infrastructure projects. The total amount of Russian Federation funding for reconstruction in Abkhazia in 2013 was 12,666.9 million roubles. This amount included 1,803.8 million roubles from a new three-year (2013-2015) Russian Federation-funded assistance programme. It is anticipated that an additional 3,274 million roubles will be disbursed in 2014 to finalize up to 55 ongoing projects.

29. Overall, more progress was also observed in relation to security on the ground with respect to the local Gali population. The practice of extortion, common in earlier years, was further reduced, and local farmers welcomed the initiation of criminal procedures against two local officials on charges of extortion during the hazelnut harvest season. Unfortunately, this positive trend was overshadowed by a series of kidnappings perpetrated mainly by local criminal groups for the purpose of ransom collection. Most of the victims were people with money in cash or cash crops, such as hazelnut harvests, or people who are known to have well-to-do relatives in Georgia or abroad. On 15 and 24 May 2013, respectively, the authorities in control and Russian Federation border guards officially opened the long-expected four new pedestrian crossing points, three in the lower and one in the upper part of the Gali district. Another crossing point for vehicles used by the Inguri hydroelectric power station, located in the upper part of the Gali district, was also opened. It was observed that the opening of the new crossing points, together with that of the central Inguri Bridge, which also serves as a crossing for vehicles, have ensured a relatively orderly crossing for the local population.

30. Despite the improvements noted in the present report, protection and reintegration challenges still exist. While generally acknowledging some progress and expressing appreciation for the assistance received, the local population do not yet consider the situation to be "fully normalized", and a sense of insecurity still prevails. Remaining protection concerns expressed by returnees relate to (a) freedom of movement, in particular the longer-term perspective, as messages received are perceived as not always being consistent; (b) documentation required to exercise freedom of movement, to enjoy rights and to gain access to services; (c) access to education, including higher education, and language of instruction; (d) secure access to quality health-care facilities (on both sides of the administrative boundary line); (e) occasional incidents of discrimination, including those related to documentation and access to services; and (f) the denial of effective protection against crime and adequate response to sexual and gender-based violence. A significant segment of the population in the Gali, Tkvarcheli and Ochamchira districts has no valid documentation. As a result of the investigation into possible wrongdoing during the process of issuing Abkhaz documents, some 1,188

individuals in the same three districts have lost or will lose their Abkhaz documentation. This remains a serious concern. The situation is aggravated by a sense of insecurity on the part of the local population caused by fears that they may be left without documents, which may negatively affect their freedom of movement, employment and business registration and have other, related consequences.

31. Since the conflict in August 2008, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have had no operational access to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and are therefore not in a position to verify or closely monitor displacement or return movements. However, in preparation for the rounds of the Geneva international discussions, the co-chairs and United Nations staff were able to visit the region and familiarize themselves with the latest developments and with the rehabilitation efforts undertaken.

32. Information made available to UNHCR by the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation indicates that, as at 1 January 2014, 65 persons (belonging to 56 families) from Georgia enjoy refugee status in the Russian Federation. An additional 697 persons (belonging to 538 families) from Georgia, including from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, currently hold temporary asylum status in the Russian Federation. Of that number, 104 persons (belonging to 88 families) were granted temporary asylum in 2013. No organized returns from the Russian Federation to areas covered by the present report were conducted in 2013, and no information is available from the Federal Migration Service on any spontaneous returns. The actual number of persons displaced from Georgia residing in the Russian Federation is considered to be significantly higher, since many are not reflected in the official statistics, having regularized their residence status outside of refugee protection mechanisms or having lost their refugee status upon the acquisition of Russian citizenship.

B. Institutional framework and operational measures

33. In 2005, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation developed, in consultation with all stakeholders, an initiative entitled "Strategic directions: promoting confidence-building measures for displaced and war-affected persons in Abkhazia". The initiative was aimed at supporting a bottom-up peacebuilding approach based on self-reliance and community involvement and integrates protection and assistance efforts by monitoring the situation of returnees, addressing their concerns in discussions with the relevant authorities and providing targeted assistance. Since April 2009, the initiative has been complemented by a strategic framework for continued assistance, which seeks to achieve durable solutions for returnees through integrated protection and assistance activities and the promotion of their rights, with a view to preventing renewed displacement of the population in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. Such efforts bring together as strategic partners, under the overall coordination of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNHCR, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, international NGOs (Action against Hunger, the Danish Refugee Council, Première urgence and World Vision International), as well as a number of additional humanitarian actors in an observer capacity.

34. In July 2010, the Government complemented its "State strategy on occupied territories: engagement through cooperation" (adopted by Order N107 of 27 January 2010) with the action plan for engagement (adopted by Order N885 of 3 July 2010, amended on 26 January 2011). The plan envisages the undertaking of a number of steps aimed at building trust and confidence among divided communities. Those measures were followed in October 2010 by the issuance of the regulation of the Government of Georgia on the approval of modalities for conducting activities in the occupied territories of Georgia. In that context, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will continue to engage in humanitarian action on the basis of their respective mandates and within the framework of multilateral and bilateral agreements governing privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

35. In my previous report (see A/67/869, para. 35), I informed the General Assembly of the declared intention of the Government of Georgia to pursue a more open form of engagement. In that regard, the Government's decision of 1 January 2014 to rename the State Ministry for Reintegration the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality eliminated one of the stated objections of the authorities in control in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia to participating in direct dialogue. At the same time, draft amendments to the Law on Occupied Territories, which envisaged softening criminal liability in case of violations of the law, were inconclusively debated in Parliament in May 2013 and deferred for further consideration. I regret to report that Parliament did not consider these amendments again during the reporting period. Ambiguities both in the current legislation and between the Law on Occupied Territories and the State strategy on occupied territories complicate the operational environment for international and local actors involved in humanitarian, peacebuilding and other activities and constrain the development of an enabling environment for more direct interaction.

36. The status-neutral liaison mechanism established by UNDP in 2012 (see A/65/846, para. 21) continued to operate during the reporting period, including in facilitating the delivery of vaccines, medicine and other forms of humanitarian assistance to Abkhazia. This has proved to be a valuable tool not only in supporting the implementation of humanitarian projects, but also in connecting and facilitating dialogue between the divided communities. The effectiveness of the mechanism is based in large part on the fact that its status-neutral and human rights-based approach is accepted and supported by all sides. In this regard, the mechanism offers an example of an effective approach that, with genuine will and readiness to compromise, may be replicated in other spheres of activity. At the same time, I would encourage all parties and stakeholders to consider establishing such a mechanism to help address the humanitarian and other needs of the population living in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia.

37. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continued to respond to humanitarian needs. UNICEF continued to focus on access to quality health care, education and social protection for vulnerable children and youth in rural and returnee communities. Together with UNDP, UNICEF continued to strengthen routine immunization practices, provided equipment to medical institutions and organized training for medical professionals focusing on maternal and child health care, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, oncology, healthful lifestyles and emergency medical care, as well as information technology skills. A database on pregnant women/pregnancy was also developed. In addition, UNDP supported the rehabilitation and re-equipping of the cervical cancer screening

centre in Sukhumi. UNICEF continued to provide 48 rural medical points within social community centres with basic equipment, essential drugs and training and carried out public health promotion and communication activities. It also continued hygiene promotion and education in schools, including with respect to improved access to water and sanitation. In cooperation with World Vision International and local partners, UNICEF further continued to provide basic social services for children living with disabilities and their families. It also engaged in training education professionals in modern teaching methodologies for preschool and primary education. In addition, It continued to support youth participation and development, as well as confidence-building, through 36 youth clubs established across the conflict-affected regions of Abkhazia, Samegrelo and Shida Kartli.

38. During the reporting period, UNDP paid special attention to youth in returnee communities and their connectivity to various international educational sources. In collaboration with local NGOs working on youth activities, a UNDP-created network of seven computer-based training centres offered access to information technology and training to more than 1,100 local beneficiaries. Young students were offered internationally recognized information technology certifications and English language classes with certification, enabling them to access graduate and post-graduate education abroad.

39. UNHCR, in partnership with local and international NGOs, continued to address obstacles to sustainable return by providing a limited number of individual cash grants and essential household items to vulnerable families, legal advice and counselling in relation to documentation issues and access to rights and services, shelter repair and rehabilitation, and income-generating opportunities. Moreover, efforts to strengthen the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence were undertaken through, inter alia, medical, legal and psychosocial counselling and awareness-raising campaigns. Overall, these activities reached out to more than 1,000 households in Abkhazia, primarily in the Gali district.

40. The issue of freedom of movement across the administrative boundary line has security, humanitarian and human rights dimensions and remains of utmost importance to the local population. Developments during the reporting period were marked by two trends: enhanced control and formalization of crossings. On the other hand, so-called "borderization" measures, including the blockage of roads and foot paths as well as increased and more systematic surveillance by Russian Federation border guards and strict fining practices, were reported. On the other hand, the local population was in principle able to continue to move across the Inguri Bridge and the simplified permit system introduced in 2012, which facilitates crossing, is being upheld. As referred to in paragraph 29 above, five new crossing points were made operational. Four additional crossing points for use only by pedestrians were established in the following locations in the lower and upper Gali region: (a) Otobaia-2; (b) Nabakevi/Nabakia; (c) Tagiloni/Taglan; and (d) Saberio/Papanrkhua. The fifth newly opened crossing, at Lekukhona/Alekumkhara, is specifically designated to serve vehicle crossings for Inguri hydroelectric power station employees. The crossing points are operational from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day, and multiple documents are allowed to be used by those who are crossing. I welcome and encourage all steps that would facilitate the freedom of movement and freedom of travel of all segments of the local population and allow their movement and travel in safety and dignity.

41. I have taken note of encouraging information on ambulance services allowed across the administrative boundary line, according to which pragmatic practice has been established to the effect that when medical transportation is needed, patients are brought by one ambulance to the Inguri Bridge crossing point and then picked up by another ambulance that transports them further on the other side. In many cases the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism hotline, which is still operational, was used to inform those on both sides about the need for medical transportation. Although limited in scope and effect, these ambulance services are a testimony to emerging good cooperation in jointly addressing humanitarian concerns.

42. However, there were some allegations that the closure of the Inguri checkpoint during the night and the denial of access to other crossing points had caused delays in reaching proper medical services, resulting in fatalities. While the alleged incidents, their background and the possible connection between the closure of crossing points and the deaths of individuals could not be fully verified, it is critical that neither the selection of medical services nor access thereto be influenced by political considerations. Persons in need should be able to gain access to medical attention wherever it can be offered most quickly and at the highest attainable standard. I call upon all stakeholders to exercise maximum care and flexibility in this regard.

43. The local population in the Gali district, including returnees, remains concerned about its freedom of movement, its continued contact with family members and friends residing on the other side of the Inguri River and its access to social infrastructure, including medical facilities and markets in the Zugdidi district. The development and implementation of a crossing regime that allays those concerns remains crucial for improving the living conditions of the local population, advancing the reintegration of returnees and preventing renewed displacement. In that context, it is essential to identify and implement solutions for the provision of documentation in conformity with international law, including international human rights law, and the principles governing the prevention and reduction of statelessness. There were reports that schoolchildren at the Saberio/Pakhulani, Khurcha/Nabakevi and Tagiloni/Ganmukhuri crossing points were not allowed to cross in order to attend school. I urge the relevant authorities to take pragmatic steps to solve this recurring problem and allow children with special permits to cross at convenient locations.

44. The principles and factors governing the implementation of the return of internally displaced persons outlined in my report of 24 August 2009 (A/63/950), particularly its paragraphs 8 to 14, remain valid. There is a complex nexus between the individual right to voluntary, safe and dignified return and the establishment of conditions conducive to such return. The individual's right of return, in the case of an internally displaced person, derives from his or her right to freedom of movement as stipulated in article 12, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, in relation to a refugee, from article 12, paragraph 4, of the Covenant, according to which "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country". In accordance with article 12, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, the freedom of movement, as established in article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, can be subject only to restrictions "which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (*ordre public*), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights" recognized in the

Covenant. Progress made with respect to integration, locally or by resettlement, does not result in a loss of the right of return.

45. I reiterate that the right of return and its exercise by an internally displaced person cannot therefore be directly linked to political questions or the conclusion of peace agreements. It is essential to recognize return as both a human right and a humanitarian issue that must be addressed irrespective of any solution to an underlying conflict. At the same time, it is primarily for the individual to assess the risks and make an informed choice as to whether or not to return at a given time. In doing so, a displaced person must be able to take into account all factors that could affect his or her safety, dignity and ability to exercise basic human rights.

46. The United Nations is committed to assisting States in the search for durable solutions for displaced populations, and its engagement is based on the understanding that voluntary return in safety and dignity is one durable solution, the other two being local integration and resettlement. The role of the United Nations in the facilitation, design and implementation of organized return operations must be guided by the need to avoid causing harm or contributing to the exposure of persons of concern to possible human rights violations. Therefore, activities related to organized returns must be based on a careful risk assessment, taking into consideration the existing security and human rights conditions and concerns, access to livelihoods and basic services and the voluntary nature of return. Unhindered humanitarian access and the ability of the United Nations and its mandated agencies, funds and programmes to effectively monitor all of these factors is another aspect to be taken into account.

IV. Prohibition of forced demographic changes

47. Relevant international human rights standards should guide managed population movements, including evacuations, and thereby strictly limit forced movements, including those that result in demographic changes. The principles and provisions of international law mentioned in my previous report (see A/67/869, para. 48), as well as non-refoulement obligations governing the protection of refugees and others who flee their homes as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict or situations of generalized violence, remain fully applicable.

48. While no major new displacement was observed during the reporting period, the demographic consequences of earlier displacement remain. In that context, I would like to recall once again the observations of my former Representative on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in his report of 14 January 2009 (A/HRC/13/21/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 7-14) and referred to in my report of 17 June 2010 (A/64/819, paras. 22 and 23).

V. Humanitarian access

A. International legal foundations governing humanitarian access

49. The need to establish and maintain humanitarian space is essential in order to effectively meet the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected and displaced

populations, to mitigate suffering and to enable United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to exercise their mandates. In that context, it remains important that all sides respect their obligations and act in good faith to fully implement the principle of humanitarian access, which is rooted in international humanitarian and human rights law. The free passage of relief goods and the facilitation of humanitarian operations are correlated to a number of human rights, including the right to life, the right to a decent standard of living and the right to protection against discrimination. Moreover, building on the practice of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, there is growing acceptance that the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights includes an obligation to invite, accept and facilitate international (humanitarian) assistance, in particular if the State's resource capacities or other obstacles, such as lack of effective control of parts of the territory, limit its capacity to effectively address all humanitarian needs.

50. In the context of international conflict situations, international humanitarian law requires the establishment of conditions for rapid and unimpeded passage of all relief consignments, equipment and personnel. In non-international conflicts, States must organize relief actions for the civilian population, without any adverse distinction. The universal acceptance of those rules has established, as a norm of customary law in both international and non-international conflicts, that parties to a conflict must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need.

B. Operational challenges

51. Following the amendments introduced to the Law on Occupied Territories, after taking into consideration recommendations issued by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe in October 2010, the Government of Georgia issued its regulation on the approval of modalities for conducting activities in the occupied territories of Georgia, which, inter alia, serves as the guideline for the implementation of the Law. During the reporting period, the issuance of the modalities had no impact on the activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. In the light of the ambiguity of some provisions of the modalities, allowing for a significant degree of discretion and potential arbitrariness, a further review and possible reform of these norms by the Government would be welcomed. Such a review should fully take into account the international legal foundations governing humanitarian access as outlined above and the practical concerns of humanitarian and development actors operating on the ground.

52. The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were able to implement protection, humanitarian assistance, recovery and development activities in Abkhazia as planned. However, ongoing humanitarian needs notwithstanding, it is widely recognized, including by the international donor community, that needs have increasingly shifted from humanitarian assistance towards early recovery activities and the delivery of more sustainable support. The United Nations Resident Coordinator is facilitating an inclusive dialogue on this matter among international donors and with relevant authorities.

53. On 28 January 2013, the UNHCR Field Office in Gali was informed in writing that it "should change the geographical focus of its activities and relocate all of its

current and planned projects to the Gali district of the Republic of Abkhazia" and was advised "to complete the current stage of the ongoing projects in all districts of the Republic of Abkhazia excluding the Gali district until 1 May 2013" and to make known "the completion of the adjustments of its activities". Almost identical communications were received by a number of international NGOs operating in Abkhazia. However, UNDP and UNICEF did not receive a similar communication, nor did Médecins Sans Frontières.

54. Despite this, UNHCR did not experience any negative impact on the exercise of its international protection mandate serving displaced populations in Abkhazia, since its projects and activities focus on the returnee areas and subsequent negotiations have clarified that assistance to individual persons of concern residing beyond the Gali region would still be provided under the existing projects. A number of NGOs, however, have had to adjust their projects. Some have expressed concern that a number of humanitarian needs outside the Gali region may not be sufficiently addressed and that the strict guidance received may have a negative impact on their donor support. The impact of these measures on humanitarian access and aid operations, and ultimately on the situation of vulnerable populations, requires continued careful monitoring.

55. Given the need for a proper transition from humanitarian assistance through recovery to longer-term sustainable development, it is important to avoid gaps in the transition process and ensure that the remaining humanitarian needs as well as contingency considerations are fully met. In this regard, I reiterate my call for respect for the international principles governing humanitarian access, for flexibility and for practical approaches and measures to be taken by all stakeholders therein. In addition, consultations must continue among all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure the flow of up-to-date information on the humanitarian needs of the population and to improve coordination.

56. During the reporting period, discussions were renewed on possible humanitarian access for the United Nations to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. During several visits to Tskhinvali, Akhagori and Znauri, the United Nations Representative and the other co-chairs of the Geneva international discussions were able to witness further progress on a number of ongoing humanitarian, infrastructure and reconstruction initiatives, including water projects undertaken by OSCE and road construction, which has helped to reduce by more than half the travel time between Tskhinvali and the Akhagori valley. I also take note of positive efforts to preserve or prevent further alteration and decay of the cultural heritage and to prevent the removal of artefacts from the region, including through an agreement by the participants in the Geneva international discussions to work jointly on the issue. United Nations proposals to build on previous humanitarian activities on the ground, however, have not materialized. Access for the United Nations humanitarian agencies has not been possible owing to the continuing lack of agreement on the modalities governing humanitarian access. At the same time, ICRC continued to implement a number of projects throughout the area and a number of complementary medical activities are being explored by NGOs.

VI. Property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons

57. Property-related issues remained on the agenda of Working Group II of the Geneva international discussions. Obstacles to resolving those issues, as well as my call upon all parties to adhere to the principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons (referred to as the "Pinheiro principles") and the underlying norms of international law, including international human rights law, as outlined in my previous report (see A/67/869, paras. 58-60), remain valid.

VII. Timetable for the voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons and work towards durable solutions

58. No timetable for the voluntary return of all refugees and internally displaced persons has been developed, given the prevailing environment and continued discussions among the parties. Working Group II of the Geneva international discussions did not deal with the issue of voluntary return, owing to the unwillingness of some participants to discuss the matter. I reiterate that as long as the conditions for organized returns in safety and dignity are not fulfilled and mechanisms for property restitution are not established, the design of a comprehensive timetable or road map for returns must remain an open matter. Those challenges should not prevent the parties from working towards identifying durable solutions for all displaced persons, giving particular attention to the implementation of the right of return. I would like to reiterate my call upon all participants in the Geneva international discussions to engage constructively on this issue, building on international law and relevant principles.

59. In the absence of conditions conducive to organized return and appropriate implementation mechanisms, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will continue to concentrate their efforts on providing the conflict-affected populations, including returnees or persons in the process of returning, with assistance and support for their reintegration. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes remain committed to proceeding at the appropriate time, in consultation and cooperation with all parties concerned, with the development of a timetable or road map addressing all components outlined in my report (A/63/950), in particular its paragraph 20.

VIII. Conclusion

60. Over the past five and a half years, the Geneva international discussions, co-chaired by the European Union, OSCE and the United Nations, have remained the single forum for the key stakeholders to discuss security and stability and humanitarian issues, in particular in relation to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Those efforts, together with humanitarian engagement by a variety of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other actors, have contributed to some improvements in the security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

61. Many security, humanitarian, human rights and development challenges, however, remain unresolved. Despite the difficult nature of the discussions, the

complexity of the issues and divergence in the positions, the participants in the discussions have continued to engage on a regular basis. In cooperation with partner organizations, the United Nations-facilitated information sessions on relevant best practices and lessons learned have helped to enrich the formal sessions of the Geneva international discussions. The United Nations stands ready to continue to support such information-sharing along with its further humanitarian and development engagement on the ground.

62. While I noted with satisfaction the constructive continuation of the meetings of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti, I regret that the meetings of the Mechanism in Gali have remained suspended since April 2012. In order to resume the meetings of the Mechanism in Gali, I urge all participants to work with the United Nations Representative to find a solution based on the proposals for the Mechanism of 18 February 2009. Continued and more constructive efforts are needed to reach an agreement on practical steps to further strengthen the security situation and meet the pressing humanitarian concerns of the affected population, including internally displaced persons. While I am encouraged by their full commitment to the process, I once again call upon all stakeholders to uphold their engagement in the Geneva international discussions and to preserve and expand humanitarian space. I also urge donors to continue and strengthen their support for the multifaceted humanitarian, development and confidence-building efforts.



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Promotion and protection of human rights

**Letter dated 7 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the documents issued by social organizations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and an article by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to human rights abuses in the United States of America and south Korea (see annex).

It is the firm and consistent position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that the United Nations should uphold the principles of rejecting selectivity, double standards and politicization of human rights and that those who are accusing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its human rights situation should deal with the worst human rights abuses in their own countries and mind their own business.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will firmly defend the idea and socialist system chosen by itself and continue sincerely discharging its duty in the field of international human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ja Song Nam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 7 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Memorandum on United States crimes against human rights

Central Committee of the Democratic Front
for the Reunification of Korea
North headquarters of the Nationwide
Special Committee for Probing the Truth behind GI's massacres
Pyongyang, 5 May 2014

The US remains as the sworn enemy of the Korean nation for all the miseries and suffering it inflicted on Korean people.

The crimes committed by the US against the Korean people for centuries through invasion and plunder are immeasurable.

The action taken by the US, posing as "human rights judge", in raising one's non-existent "human rights" issues is an insult against justice and conscience. The US action like a guilty party filing the suit first shows again the aggressive nature of the descendants of American race.

It is none other than the US that should be brought to the dock for the human rights violations it committed.

The Central Committee of the of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of Korea and the North Headquarters of the Nationwide Special Committee for Probing the Truth behind the GIs' Massacres release this memorandum to disclose the US crimes — the crimes against humanity and human rights — perpetrated by the US against the Korean nation.

1. Severe Violations on the Sovereign Rights of the Korean Nation for Centuries through Brigandish Aggression

Sovereignty is life to a nation and thereby, aggression comes as the most serious challenge to sovereignty and human rights.

The US continued to seriously infringe upon the sovereignty of Korea, fully engaged in its aggression on Korea for hundreds of years, starting with the intrusion of US warship "Sherman".

Since the start of blood-shed aggression with the warship "Sherman" — it played the role of advance team and scout in the invasion of Korea — in 1886, the US consistently dispatched "Shenandoah" and other warships in 1868, 1868 and 1871 respectively for plunder and invasion of Korea.

Finding it hard to attain its aggressive purpose due to resistance of the Korean people, the US sided with Japan during the 1894-1895 Sino-Japanese War and 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, openly supporting Japan's aggression of Korea. In 1905 the US concluded the "Katsura-Taft Treaty" which recognized Japan's occupation of Korea, using it as a shock brigade for invading Korea.

The Japanese colonial rule, which lasted for 40 years under the active patronage and full support of US, forced the Korean people to lead a life of colonial slavery — the life less better than the dog in a house of grief.

With the defeat of the Japanese imperialism, the US came to the fore in its invasion of Korea to severely infringe upon the national sovereignty.

Under the name of “emancipator”, US occupied south Korea in September 1945 and issued Decree No.1 of the MacArthur Command, declaring that the entire south Korean people should obey the command of the US occupation army. This was a start of brutal atrocities on the Korean nation by the US.

Revealing its true intention of aggression, saying “US commanding area should be expanded to the entire Korean region”, it finally launched military invasion of the DPRK on 25th of June, 1950.

Despite all the frenzied efforts made by the U.S imperialism, deploying huge military forces and hardware and mobilizing 15 satellite allies, they had no way but to kneel down before the heroic Korean people and surrender.

Instead of learning lessons from its ignominious defeat in the Korean War, the US continued to occupy south Korea after the ceasefire and turned the region into the complete US colonial rule area and ruins of human rights.

Even the Western media made fun of democracy and human rights in south Korea, as an act of looking for rose in rubbish bin.

The US is responsible for turning south Korea into the largest nuclear arsenal on earth by deploying all forms of WMD including nuclear weapons. The amount of arsenal in south will be enough for the US to exterminate the whole Korean nation 100 times.

It is also responsible for bringing nuclear disasters and threats to the Korean people through joint military exercises and notorious nuclear war exercises including “Team Spirit”, “Key Resolve”, “Foal Eagle” and “Ulzi Freedom Guardian”.

The capturing of the US armed spy warship “Pueblo” and shooting down of “EC-121” reconnaissance plane in 1960s, the Panmunjom incident in 1970s as well as the “9-day Operation Plan” and “5-day Operation Plan” reveals how much the US ran amuck to invade the DPRK and occupy the entire Korean Peninsula with the purpose of forcing the Korean people into the colonial slavery life. “Operation Plan 5027” and “Operation Plan 5029” together with “Joint Plan for Coping with the Provocation of a Local War”, “Custom-tailored Deterrence Policy” add to the fact.

Any crime against humanity and human rights won't be more serious than the US that plans to exterminate the whole Korean nation and make them slavery through its military invasion and war.

2. Inhumane Atrocity against the Korean Nation

The brutal atrocities the US committed against the Korean people since its invasion are unprecedented in all ages and centuries.

1) The US Invasion of Korea paved with Massacre

The US imperialism brutally massacred Korean people from 19th century while they were conducting mine development and missionary work; in 19th century, the U.S forced Korean government to sign "Korea — US Treaty" to launch its invasion of Korea in full scale.

The US felons in Korea, being disguised themselves with different identities as merchant, missionary, doctor and teacher, regarded the lives of Korean people far less important than the flies.

The US imperialists usurped rights for developing mines in Kapsan, Suan and Unsan, railway concession between Seoul and Incheon and management of trams, telephones and water-supply systems and committed brutal atrocities wherever they went, exploiting from people.

A miner, in a mine underdevelopment, raised his hand for help from the collapsed tunnel but his arm was chopped mercilessly with an axe, with the word "once you are buried, there is no way but to die." Young man, twined in a machine, was left to die brutally by his owner, saying "if we stop the machine, we will lose gold which is more expensive than hundreds of Korean workers". A boy was bitten to death brutally by a hound unleashed deliberately by an American. These are some of the atrocities the US imperialist murderers committed in Korea.

Such a brutal atrocity as the word "thief" being marked with hydrochloric acid on the forehead of a small girl by an American missionary, because she picked an apple in his orchard still remains in the memory of the Korean people today together with their resentment. It is impossible to count all the people who were murdered in such ways.

The US is accomplice of the brutal atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialism against the Korean people.

Concerning with the Japanese brutal repression of the participants in the March 1 Popular Uprising in 1919, the US State Department openly gave support to the Japanese government, stating that "The Korean issue is the internal issue of Japan and the situation is exactly same as the one in the Philippines. The US serious doubts about the credibility of the news related with the attitude of the Japanese government. The information we received tells us that the Japanese government did not take such a brutal and firm measure against the uprising."

The US stands behind all the crimes against humanity committed by Japan during its colonial rule such as brutal killing of Korean people, forcing them to labour and lead comfort-women lives.

2) The U.S Atrocities of Indiscriminate Massacre in south Korea after Korean Liberation on August 15

After their illegitimate occupation of south Korea, the US committed atrocities of indiscriminately slaughtering patriots and people who were against colonial rule in south Korea.

In October 1946, the October People's Resistance was met with the brutal suppression of the puppet armed forces incited by the US. In the end, 25,000 people were killed and thousands of people were missing with tens of thousands of people

wounded; the October People's Resistance was the uprising by the south Korean people in various areas including Taegu, demanding for the democratic rights and abolition of the military administration.

The US mobilized puppet military gangsters to brutally massacre 70,000 people in Jeju island — 25% of its total population at the time — by shooting, hanging and burying them alive when there was April 3 Uprising in the island against the US administration in 1948. During this oppression, the US said, "What we need is Jeju Island, not its residents.", "Burn the whole island with fuel and burn them all."

On the single day of May 10, 1948, 416 people were killed and 858 people were wounded for the reason that they were opposing the US-supported "Separate Election".

During its repression operation against the Ryosu Mutiny in October 1948, 2,400 people were killed and 4,500 were wounded in Ryosu and Suncheon in South Jonra Province, according to the report.

The US forces killed 40,000 people and wounded hundreds of thousands of people during its punitive operation in 5 areas including Mt. Jiri, Mt. Taebaek and Mt. Otae from December 1949 to January 1950.

South Korea was trampled down by the US military boots, becoming an enormous abattoir.

Since the US occupation of south Korea, 10,000 patriotic people were killed until July 1949. It was reported that 109,000 innocent people were killed and 118,600 were sent to prison in a just few months from July 1949 until spring 1950, the period when the US was preparing the aggression to the north while stepping up the fascist campaign. The number of deaths and the wounded during this period exceeds the number of deaths in the previous four years.

Tainted with decadent racism and immorality as well as depravity, the US brutes in south Korea regarded killing and rape as their pleasure.

In 1947, 24 Yankees gang raped 3 Korean women on the train to Honam although they were holding babies on their back. At the end, those women were beaten unconscious. This incident is well-known to the world as the "GI's Gang-rape of the Korean Women".

According to the official statistics of south Korean authorities, all forms of crimes including murder, robbery and rape committed by the US aggression forces reach more than 23,000 cases. Thereby, hundreds of thousands of south Koreans suffered from huge loss of life in this peaceful time, not a war time.

3) Massacres in the period of the Korean War

During the Korean War, the US aggressors massacred our people in the most brutal and cruel manner beyond all the imagination of human beings.

Official records shows that the US imperialists killed 1.23 million in north and 1.24 million in south during the wartime period.

Such atrocities were committed in increased number during the KPA's temporary strategic retreat.

The well known Sinchon massacre is the typical example.

US imperialists killed around 35,380 patriots and innocent civilians — one fourth of county's population at the time — in 50 days of occupation of Sinchon County in October 1950. Among those victims, 16,200 were children, aged people and women.

The US killed 900 people in an air-raid shelter of the county party committee, setting fire on them with petrol. The brutes separated children from their mothers in order to make them irritate, saying "children are too happy with their mothers." They gave petrol to the thirsty children, instead of water and threw bundles of fire and grenades to kill 910 people in total including 400 mothers and 102 children.

The GIs killed a member of the Workers' Party of Korea by pulling out his eyes, cutting off his heart and quartering his body simply because he was a Party member; they killed an active farmer by pushing a nail into head and sawing off his body; killed a man by dragging him with his nose pierced through by wire and finally chopping him with a pick simply because he refused to obey them.

After arresting the core members of our Women's organization, the GIs committed atrocity about which even animals might feel blushed; they made her naked and dragged in street calling her "the red woman", "chairman of Women's League", "Wife of Korean People's Army", brutally tortured and raped her in group, cut off her breast and womb. Not satisfied with this, they buried massive people alive to death and drowned to death into a water reservoir.

The GIs who intruded into Eunryul Mine in October 1950 killed over 2,000 miners and their families in such appalling methods as throwing them who had been tied with wire pierced through their abdomen into a shaft, ripping open the abdomen of a pregnant woman saying they want to see the offspring of the red, cutting over 300 patriots with straw chopper, etc.

During the period of one month and more, the aggressive U.S. troops mercilessly committed mass-killing of innocent people including;

over 15,000 people in Pyongyang

19,072 people in Anak

Over 13,000 people in Unryul

Over 5,000 people in Haeju

5,998 people in Pyoksong

5,545 people in Songhwa

5,131 people in Eunchon

3,429 people in Taetan

Over 950 people in Sariwon

Over 5,000 people in Anju

3,040 people in Bongchon

2,450 people in Yonan

Over 1,400 people in Jaeryong

1,199 people in Jangyon
802 people in Rakyon
Over 5,290 people in Pyongsan
1,385 people in Tosan
1,293 people in Bongsan
Over 1,000 people in Songrim
1,561 people in Kangso
1,511 people in Nampo
1,342 people in Kaechon
Over 1,200 people in Sunchon
Over 1,400 people in Pakchon
Over 800 people in Jongju
Over 1,560 people in Cholwon
Over 630 people in Wonsan
648 people in Hamju
532 people in Tanchon
Over 1,400 people in Sonchon

The U.S. brutes killed innocent people in such ways as dragging to death with ear pierced, cutting off lips and tongue, quartering and dismembering human body, driving a nail into head, cutting off the body with saw, burning, crushing with tank, etc.

The Investigation Team of the International Federation of Democratic Women investigated the atrocities committed by the U.S. in 1951 in the northern part of Korea and concluded that "the mass-killing and torture perpetrated by the U.S. in the temporally occupied areas are more heinous than that committed by the Hitler Nazis in their temporarily occupied Europe."

Innocent people in south Korea were also victims of massacre by the US imperialists.

The number of innocent patriots and civilians who were brutally killed by the US imperialist brutes on their way of fleeing back are as follows;

5,000 in Incheon
1,146 in Suwon
600 in Pyongtaek
500 in Ansong
2,000 in Puyo
158 in Jochiwon
8,644 in Taejon

2,000 in Chongju

4,000 in Jonju

400 in Kunsan

600 in Kongju

400 in Anyang

2,060 in Chongju

The well-known Rogeun-ri massacre is another live example of the brutality of the US imperialists.

In July 1950, a group of murderers in the 7th Regiment of the 1st Armored Division of the US Army forced civilians to gather on the railway bridge near Rogeun ri of the Yongdong County in North Chungchong Province and called in planes by radio communication to bomb and strafe over them. The murderers even killed the people who hid themselves under the bridge with their machine guns.

In several counties including Kechang, Hamyang and Sanchong in South Kyongsang Province, the US imperialists forced thousands of innocent people to gather in a place and massacred them entirely including suckling babies and aged people in their 70s. They attempted to conceal their crimes by burning the bodies, using petrol.

In Seoul, patriots and people numbering about 147,000 were murdered from September 1950 to February 1951; the US imperialists were fleeing back in this period.

The US imperialist aggression forces sexually abused Korean women to satisfy their desires and killed them recklessly in the vortex of the Korean War.

A "Special Order" was given by MacArthur, then Commander of "UN Command" in September 1950 to the US aggression forces landing in Inchon. He ordered "Capture Seoul. You will have girls and women there. The City will be in your hands for 3 days and girls and women there will be all yours." By this "order", many women were fallen to victims of rape and massacre.

After jumping into a house in Seoul, the GIs threw the 2-week-old baby to the ground and raped his mom. An atrocity of raping a girl in front of her mother was committed by the US soldiers.

In fact, all those US atrocities committed during the period of the Korean War are unprecedented in history in terms brutality and cruelty.

4) The Horrible Atrocities committed in south Korea from the Postwar Period until Today

After the end of the Korean War, the US, posing as a master in south Korea, continued to commit brutal atrocities against many innocent people.

A girl was shot dead under the name of "pheasant" while she was picking up herbs and a 3 year-old child had the same destiny because he was believed to be "thief of petrol". These incidents were named as "Shooting Incident of a Girl in Kunsan" and "Killing Incident of a Child in Inchon Petroleum Pipeline" in 1957. The 1958 incident named "Incident of a Pupyong Girl in a Box of Helicopter"

exposes how the orphan, shoeshine boy, was accused as a thief and mangled, how his toenails and hairs were pulled by a pair of pliers and, at the end, was dumped in a box from the helicopter, all his body covered with tar. In 1959, a woman, forcibly taken to a US military base, was raped by a group of soldiers and beaten with whip. She was then forced out to the street with her whole body being painted. This atrocity was recorded as the "Incident of a Painted Woman of Euijongbu". The "Incident of Paju Woodchopper in 1962" whereby a farmer was shot dead as "roe deer" and the "Shooting Incident in 1981" whereby several civilians were killed in the name of testing "M-16" rifles are just few examples of the US atrocities committed in south Korea.

The Yun Gum Hui Case is about the satanic atrocity committed by a GI who raped and killed afore-said woman at Dongduchon around the US military base in 1992 by striking her head with a bottle and pushing a bottle in her womb and an umbrella in her anus. The case of Sin Hyo Sun and Sim Mi Son is about two young girls who were gruesomely killed beneath the pedrail of a US armored vehicle in 2002. These cases represent part of the crimes against humanity that can be committed only by the Yankees who are raised and imbued with immorality and hatred of human.

The GIs, from the very beginning, have regarded the south Korean people as animals like ducks or pheasants or wild rats instead of human being and considered them as no more than plaything for satisfying their perverted sexual desire.

In order to satisfy their sexual desire, the barbarian GIs raped indiscriminately any woman whether she is aged over 60 or minor, aged 6 or 8 and parturient pregnant.

A GI aged 23, raped a grandmother three times in alleys and parking areas and raped a teenage girl for over 4 hours in various perverted and thrilling methods. This incident is only a part of appalling atrocities committed by the brutal GIs upon south Korean women, which are too terrible to speak about in one's tongue.

Last year only has recorded a number of brutalities committed by the aggressive GIs in series including the incident of GIs' group-raping of a woman aged 20 in metro, the incident of a GI shooting randomly at pedestrians in central Seoul and escaping in a vehicle after crashing with a police, the incident of GIs who caused a traffic accident while driving in drunk and beat a victim chasing after them. Those atrocities arouse fury of the south Korean population.

Despite of the shuddering atrocities they committed, the brutal GIs are exempt from legal punishment because of the inequitable "US-south Korea Administrative Agreement" and repeatedly commit such atrocities, enjoying extraterritorial privileges.

The US cruelly oppressed and massacred the south Korean people in all walks of life who were engaged in the struggle for anti-US independence and anti-fascism democratization.

During the Kwangju Popular Uprising of May 18 in 1980, the US instigated the south Korean puppet paratroopers to slaughter the participants of uprising by mobilizing guns and hand-grenades, tanks, armored vehicles and helicopters. The then suppressive paratroopers committed such atrocities as beating middle-school students to death with iron hammers, ripping open the abdomen of a pregnant

woman and picking out the fetus with a sword, cutting off breasts of female students, etc. and turned the entire city into the "bath of blood", shocking the world in nightmare.

The US massacre of the Korean nation is in deed unprecedented in history and demonstrates to the whole world the murderous identity, brutality and barbarity of the US.

3. Despicable Violation and Obliteration of the Right to Existence of the Korean Nation

The US has despicably violated and obliterated even the right to existence of the Korean nation by trampling down their national sovereignty, massacring them in cold blood, destroying their living cradles and plundering their assets without discrimination.

During the Korean War, the brutal US turned the entire Korean territory into ashes with indiscriminate bombings, saying that "We will erase 78 north Korean cities from the world map" and "We'll make nothing left in north Korea even if broomed."

In 1952 only, the US bombarded over 200 thousands of bombs on the entire areas of northern part of Korea, used more than 1.5 Million of ammunitions and 400 thousands for rockets and dropped more than 15 million napalm bombs. In Pyongyang area only, the US dropped 52,380 bombs of various types including the mine shell, incendiary bomb and microbe bomb, making a world record of dropping 1,000 bombs per one square kilometer.

During the three-year long Korean War, the US dropped more than 428,000 bombs on Pyongyang city in total of 1,400 times and therefore the city turned into ashes with no single building left by the time of the end of the War.

The US air force conducted air raid over the airspace of the northern part of Korea for 800,000 times while the US Marine Corps and Navy for 250,000 times and dropped nearly 600,000 tons of bombs and napalm bombs, 3.7 times higher in number than the bombs dropped on the Japanese territory during the Pacific War.

The US destroyed cities, villages and industrial establishments without discretion.

Due to the brutality of the US during the Korean War, 50,0941 factories and industrial buildings, 28,632 schools, 579 scientific research institutions, 8,163 press media and cultural installations and 2,077,226 dwelling houses were severely destroyed while 563,755 ha. of farm lands damaged and 155,500 ha. of padded fields reduced.

After the War, nothing but ash was left for the Korean people and that is why the US declared that Korea will never rise up again even after 100 years.

Degradation of environment has reached a dangerous level because of the decades-long occupation of south Korea by the US aggressive forces.

Random dumping of hazardous materials including used fuel, chemicals and heavy metal in rivers of Han, Rimjin, Kumho, etc., which are all situated in the vicinity of the US military bases, has caused contamination of river unsuitable for

drinking while the West Sea of Korea has also been severely contaminated making seafood breeding and fishery impossible.

The US massively sprinkled defoliants, poison fatal to human body, in the area of DMZ raising the so-called "threat of southward aggression" and buried them without any consideration in various areas of US military bases and around their vicinity, thus turning those places "permanently dead land".

The US military base in Chilgok of north Kyongsang Province, for example, is known to have defoliant of over 50 tons which can bereave 1.5 million people of their lives buried randomly and threatening the lives and health of millions of people who use Rakdong river for drinking water.

It has been reported that by initial estimation enormous amount of money requires to simply purify the contaminated environment of the US military bases in south Korea.

Therefore, the news media of south Korea lament that "The history of the US troops in south Korea is the history of crimes" and "In fact the entire territory has turned to a dumping place of pollutants for the US military forces.

The soil degradation and devastation of land by the US is barbaric act posing a grave threat to the right of life of our nation.

4. Brutality against Humanity entailing Tragic National Division of Korea

The imposition of the tragic division for nearly 70 years upon our nation, living in harmony on the same territory with time-honored history of 5,000 years, and persistent hindrance to the Korean reunification constitutes yet another large crime against humanity and human right crime committed by the US against the Korean nation.

As the World War II was coming close to an end in August, 1945, the US occupied south Korea illegally in August after drawing a demarcation line, with the evil-minded intention of occupying the south, the half of the Korean Peninsula. In 1948, the US sought for the perpetual national division in Korea by holding the "Separate Election of May 10" aimed at forming the puppet regime led by Ri Seung Man

Although the US was encountered with severe defeat in its aggressive war against DPRK, it never withdrew its aggressive intention on the DPRK and, under the name of UN, continued to hinder the political meetings, held for peaceful solution on the issues of Korean Peninsula, according the "Armistice Agreement". The US deliberately broke off the conference of foreign ministers held in Geneva in 1954 — the purpose of the conference was to handle the issues of the Korean Peninsula through negotiations.

"We lost hundreds of thousands of lives in this Korean War. We can not just leave all the things down and leave." This is what the US stated publicly at that time. It scraped the provisions of the "Armistice Agreement", which stipulate about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Korean Peninsula, to direct its efforts on the permanent US military occupation in the region.

In 1960s, the US began to instigate south Korean puppet groups to oppress the national reunification movements and bar the trend towards reunification by executing and suppressing number of patriots with various plots.

The release of the July 4 Joint Statement — three principles for the national reunification — and the soaring aspiration of the reunification in 1970s made the US to be frightened and cling to policy of “two Koreas”, consisting of “Simultaneous Admission to UN” and “Cross-Recognition”. When the “Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression and Cooperation” was adopted as an outcome of the high-level talks between north and south Korea in 1990s, the US ignored the agreement and responded by frenzied nuclear clamour against the DPRK.

The US openly insulted the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and October 4 Inter-Korean Declaration, making insults and threats on those declarations as the “unpleasant memory” to the two former south Korean “Presidents” and “a serious situation never to neglect”, although those historical declarations were adopted through two north-south summit meetings in 2000s. As soon as the “President” ended his term and Lee Myong Bak took office, the US instigated this pro-US henchman to push those “Presidents” to death.

The tragic death of Kim Dae Jung and Ro Mu Hyon, former “Presidents” of south Korea, is de facto the result of political terrorism plotted by the manipulation of the US, who is reluctant to accept the reunification of Korea, thus presenting a great challenge and retrogression to the aspiration of the Korean nation for reunification.

Not content with this, the US instigated the pro-US henchmen to trample down and impede the implementation of all inter-Korean Declarations and thus reversed the inter-Korean relations to confrontation.

When the inter-Korean relations showed sign of improving with the high-level contact between the north and south, thanks to our leading and sincere efforts this year, the US conducted maniac war exercises in various type including the “Key Resolve” and “Foal Eagle” by mobilizing aggressive forces on a large scale. By doing so, the US cast chill on the environment for improving inter-Korean relations and drove the situation to the extreme and brink of war, thereby closing another opportunity for the reunion of separated families.

In such ways as mentioned above, the US not only disturbs the reunification of Korea viciously but also checks the independent development and the road toward peaceful prosperity of our nation.

The total damage, both in terms of physical and material, inflicted upon our nation due to the invasive maneuvers of and atrocity against humanity committed by the US amounts to over 114 trillion US\$.

The US, who forcibly imposed the separation of the Korean nation for generation after generation, estranged them from each other and is poised to inflict nuclear calamity upon them, is in true sense the worst human rights criminal who deserves to be referred to international tribunal.

Indeed, it is endless to mention about the crimes against humanity and human rights, committed by US against the Korean nation for centuries.

No brutal country such as the US exists in the world.

Nevertheless, the US just like a thief crying "Stop thief!" often clamors about the "human rights" situation of others. This shows clearly how brazenfaced burglar and heinous provocateur the US is.

There can be no statutory limitation applicable to the crimes against humanity unprecedented in history, which the US committed against the Korean people.

Our nation will surely settle account with the US, the sworn enemy.

It's time for the US to behave rationally and realize why our nation condemns the US as sworn enemy with great fury and why our army prepares for the final nuclear confrontation with the US, holding the slogan of "Destroy the US imperialist aggressors, sworn enemy of the Korean people!"

News analysis of the poor human rights record of the United States

Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA) — Shortly ago, the United States had a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution of citizenship act in the presence of President Obama.

As the world's worst human rights abuser, it pretended to be a "model" in human rights performance. More ridiculous are Obama's remarks at the ceremony that as the president, he came to realize that it is hard to make progress in the American society and there are some discouraging points.

In fact, the remarks are little different from his admission of the serious human rights situation in the U.S.

Under the citizenship act, racialism is getting more severe in the U.S. The gaps between the minorities and the whites are very wide in the exercise of such rights to work and elect. The U.S. true colors as a kingdom of racial discrimination was fully revealed by last year's case that the Florida Court gave a verdict of not guilty to a white policeman who shot to death an innocent black boy.

That's why 52 percent of the Americans have said that racism still exists in the country while 46 percent contended that all sorts of discrimination would be everlasting.

The U.S. is a living hell as elementary rights to existence are ruthlessly violated.

At present, an average of 300 000 people a week are registered as unemployed, but any proper measure has not been taken.

The housing price soared 11.5 percent last year than 2012 and 13.2 percent in January this year than 2013, leaving many people homeless.

The number of impoverished people increased to 46.5 millions last year, and one sixth of the citizens and 20-odd percent of the children are in the grip of famine in New York City.

All sorts of crimes rampant in the U.S. pose a serious threat to the people's rights to existence and their inviolable rights.

The U.S. government has monitored every movement of its citizens and foreigners, with many cameras and tapping devices and even drones involved, under the pretext of "national security".

Meanwhile, bills on easing arms control were adopted in various states of the country, boosting murderous crimes. As a result, the U.S. has witnessed an increasing number of gun-related crimes in all parts of the country and even its military bases this year. In this regard, the United Nations on April 10 put the U.S. on the top of the world list of homicide rates.

The U.S. also has 2.2 millions of prisoners at present, the highest number in the world. For lack of prisons on the part of the government, individuals are providing detention facilities to make money.

A Russian TV said that in the U.S. the wealthy classes are now keen on the investment in providing private prisons for their high profit and so more people will be imprisoned.

Such poor human right records in the U.S. are an inevitable product of the ruling quarters' policy against humanity.

Its chief executive, Obama, indulges himself in luxury almost every day, squandering hundred millions of dollars on his foreign trip in disregard of his people's wretched life.

It is also the president who called for respect to the verdict of not guilty given to a white policeman's racialism and backed the unlawful monitoring and tapping activities.

The U.S. is the world's worst human right abuser and tundra of a human being's rights to existence.

White paper on the human rights record in south Korea

National Reunification Institute
Council for Human Rights in south Korea
Pyongyang, 29 April 2014

Under the pretext of "human rights issues" in the DPRK, the smear campaign against the DPRK by the U.S. and south Korea is further intensified in recent days.

The U.S. tries to bring on the table the non-existent "human rights issues" in the DPRK for international concern, mentioning about "report on human rights of the DPRK", "field-based structure" or "referring the matter to" while south Korean puppet groups are quite busy, attempting to fabricate "north Korean human rights law" and pass it in the "parliament".

There exist no human rights issues in the DPRK where the sovereign rights and dignity of the popular masses are firmly guaranteed and people-loving policy is applied in all areas. Instead, human rights issues raise serious concerns in fully corrupted south Korea and U.S. where the jungle law is applied and rich gets richer while poor gets poorer.

South Korea, in particular, is the barren land and ruins of the worst human rights.

The National Reunification Institute and Council for Human Rights in south Korea release this white paper to inform the entire nation and the world of the tragic human rights situations in south Korea, owing to the colonial rule and anti-popular misgovernment by south Korean authorities.

People of a nation occupied and colonized is said to be little better than a dog in a house of grief. That is why we say human rights is sovereign rights or sovereignty/independent rights.

Could there be found any human rights in the times of Japanese colonial rule?

Today the above is true in the south Korean reality.

Although there exists so called "government" and "law" in south Korea, they are all literally casted for puppet show and none other than field instruments and institutions for the sake of the US colonial rule.

All fields of south Korea including politics, economy, military and culture are entirely subjugated by the U.S.

In south Korea, deprived completely of "sovereign rights" and independence, ensuring only the American interests and yielding all to the US aggression and predatory policy, human rights in its true sense is unconceivable.

The US does not care the dignity and life of south Korean people. Examples are so many including but not limited to the incidents of murder of Yun Gu Mi, two schoolgirls crushed to death by a U.S. armored vehicle, tonsure of women in Tongduchon and so on and these brutalities have shocked the entire world.

The GI barbarism keeps going without cease and the recent cases include a woman in her twenties sexually harassed by a group of GIs in the subway, a diner owner threatened with lethal weapons, random shooting at citizens in the center of Seoul and so on.

The U.S. regard south Koreans as no more than ducks in water, pheasants in the mountains and rats in fields. GIs consider south Korean women as no more than sexual playthings. The US severely infringe upon the south Korean people's right to health and right to food.

The import of U.S. mad cows provoked 1 million people to come up to the street with candle-lights and the mass demonstration still remains in the memory of the south Korean people.

The US have accumulated vast wealth subjugating south Korean economy and this gravely threatens the right to existence of the people.

The U.S.-led foreign monopoly capital accounts for 30 percent of the south Korean stock market and big businesses and banks hold more than 50 percent of stocks, swaying over the south Korean economy. They rake in profits running to billions of U.S. dollars from stock dividends only every year.

The U.S. monopoly capital stalks in south Korea, making businesses of south Korea go bankrupt and its people languish in unemployment and poverty.

Onrush of excessive agricultural products from the U.S. threatens the local farmers numbering more than 2.8 million.

The U.S. built military bases in different parts of south Korea and has staged madcap military exercises. This has deprived south Koreans of their cradle of life, devastating farmland, taking their lives and doing harm to physical bodies and polluting environment.

Since the conclusion of the humiliating "south Korea-U.S. Mutual Defence Treaty" in 1953, the puppet clique so far have offered the large area including Seoul as U.S. military base for over 60 years and further yield hundreds of billions of US\$, the taxpayers' money to the U.S. armed forces' transfer and relocation cost.

Young and middle-aged south Koreans are taken off as cannon fodder of the U.S. in its wars of aggression. Yesterday they died in vain in Vietnam War and today they serve as cannon fodder and bullet-shields in the battlefields of aggressive wars of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The puppet clique extending the transfer of wartime operational command responsibility formerly arranged to happen by 2015, is trying to offer the whole territory of south Korea as U.S. permanent military base and colony.

There is no land in the world except for south Korea which is suffering such humiliation as offering funds as upkeep of the foreign occupation forces.

South Koreans have no place where they may complain even though they are deprived of everything by the U.S. and their rights violated by it.

Even when a case of human rights abuse by GI arises, the puppets suppress the just claims of victims and provide GI criminals impunity saying that punishing them would "damage the alliance".

They ban any assemblies and demonstrations even in case of bankruptcy and the subsequent massive unemployment due to the arbitrariness of foreign monopolies.

Due to the unequal south Korea-U.S. "Administrative Agreement", south Korea is "heaven" for the U.S. occupation army but the "hell" for the people.

Even the south Korean mass media seriously doubt "the existence of sovereignty in south Korea subjugated by the U.S." and deplore that "people have no idea about who has the territorial rights to this land".

Human rights issues in south Korea can't be brought on the table for discussion, as its "state sovereignty" was deprived by U.S.

Human rights is more crudely violated due to the puppet group's medieval, tyrannical and unpopular rule.

Political freedom and democratic rights are mercilessly infringed upon, among other things.

The current revival of "Yusin" dictatorship brings back south Korea to the darkness of fascist era. The progressive party that made a legitimate appearance was forced to be disbanded, after being labeled "forces following the north" and a lawmaker from an opposition party was taken away from the "NA" building in broad daylight, on the charge of his alleged involvement in an "attempted rebellion."

The progressive groups and figures are accused of benefitting enemy and they become the target of repression for the reason that they advocate justice, democracy, progress and national reunification.

People who denounce the national election as illegitimate and sing the song of criticizing the "president" become the objects of persecution. There is also a danger that if people use similar expression as the north, they can be accused of "anti-government behavior" and end up in a cell. Innocent people are easily branded as pagans just simply because they did not sing the "national anthem".

In this fierce atmosphere of repression, many cases such as "spy case" and "security-related cases" are being plotted in series and innocent civilians and patriotic people suffer from various kinds of assaults in prisons.

"Freedom of Expression" is nowhere to be found. All the media are in the tight control of the state authorities and it is the reality that when an article is not in favour of the government, it will be immediately erased and the writer will be interrogated from the "intelligence service" or sacked immediately.

In the eight months of the present regime, more than 23,790 articles were deleted from internet sites for being "articles following the north", and hundreds of internet sites were forced to shut down. "Jaju Minbo", the progressive internet newspaper — it represents the voice of justice — is in the state of shutdown, being accused of "pro-north".

People demanding the right to existence were harshly suppressed.

When workers in the field of railways staged a strike against the de-nationalization of railways at the end of last year, the fascist authorities hurled at least 5,000 police of over 60 companies to put it down the way they conducted an "anti-terrorist operation". They even stormed the building of the south Korean Confederation of Trade Unions without a confiscation and search warrant and walked off more than 130 people.

The puppet police and gangsters forcibly withdrew the incense-burning altar, oppressing and confining the workers who tried to pay tribute to the victims of Ssangryong Motors who lost their lives in the struggle for the right to existence. International organizations of human rights fiercely condemned the atrocities committed by the fascist group, accusing it as the "atrocities against humanity of not providing a place to pay respect to the lost lives."

The group continues to oppress protesters without distinction of ages or sex, using tear gas and water-cannons.

As a result, hundreds of workers and farmers including women and students, who participated in demonstration on August 15 last year, fell unconscious due to the water-cannons of tear liquid and forcibly taken to prisons.

The group's atrocities against humanity such as twisting arms of aged mothers, throwing them away and stepping on the disabled persons in wheelchair were witnessed. What's more, they even used water-cannons to freeze the protesters in winter. It is innumerable to reveal the atrocities committed by the fascist group.

The puppet forces' unpopular rule deteriorated the living of south Koreans from all walks of life, forcing them to undergo unspeakable sufferings.

7 million households — 45% in total — wander around due to the lack of houses while around 10 million are living hopeless in the last poverty line.

Students around 60% face with the reality that they can not afford the fee without doing a part-time job or becoming an experiment of vivisection. Still, 2.75 million graduates remain unemployed as there is no plenty jobs.

The number of unemployment has reached over 4.5 million and that of underemployed who do part-time jobs for low wages for a day or a few months almost 10 million. People accounting for 11-19 percent suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Critical living conditions created not only the "generation of giving up on 3 dos" such as dating, marriage and childbirth but also the "generation of complaining on 3 feels" such as anxiety, dissatisfaction and mistrust and the number continues to be increased. The number of south Korean people, saying "When we are revived, we hope to be born elsewhere", reach 60%.

People including women, children and the aged, who should be protected and taken care of, are neglected.

Among the entire south Korean women, two thirds including students in mid and high school face the threats of sexual violation and 70% of female workers are with constant fears of dismissals although they work in the terrible conditions. Approximately 1.25 million women are compelled to choose the life of prostitution.

Women of 54% in total decide to give up childbirth because of the unemployment and hard living and this makes south Korea to lead the last in world's birth rating. It is found that 8,000 babies are abandoned per year because of the divorce and it is surprising to see the number of choking babies to death reach in great speed up to 225 cases in 2013 which was 64 cases in 2008.

Simultaneous suicide comes as one of the serious social issue in south Korea today.

The dreadful story of mother and her two daughters in Songpa district committing suicide shows the harsh reality of south Korea.

Those three people in Sokchon-dong in Songpa district, Seoul, were living in the rented underground house before they decided to commit suicide, blaming the south Korean society.

Two daughters' mother, who lost her husband from cancer 12 years ago, worked in a restaurant to earn small incomes in order to support two daughters who were suffering from high-blood pressure and diabetes. One day, she was sacked from the restaurant because her arm was injured. Since then, she could not find a hope of living in this society and this led her to make determination to die with her children from the coal smoke in the room.

There is a mother of 30 years of age who jumped from 15th floor of a apartment building with 4 year-old child as she failed to repay her debt and a 70 year-old grandmother who took poison to die, finding it hard to live. A worker filled the room with coal gas to die, asking his children to forgive this guilty father while a female student gave up her dream of studying, failing to afford the school fee. Also there is a female officer in the puppet army who committed suicide, hopeless to overcome the assault and sexual violence from her senior officer.

Those stories prove that south Korea is the "Kingdom of Suicide".

The number of those who commit suicides is more than 40 a day, topping the world list.

The increasing number of suicide forces the parliament of south Korean puppets to make laws, preventing the suicide.

Child abuse come up as another social issue in south Korea.

The child abuse in "Children's House" is beyond imaginary.

In order to teach children well behave, several torturing methods are used in this house. For example children are forced to take garlic and hot pepper as well as filthy food to vomit and they are banned to go bathroom. Tortures such as putting head in tub are applied to those children in the house. It is difficult to distinguish whether it is the house for childcare or a prison for children as they are sexually abused and sometimes dumped away in a sack on mountains.

Over 1.1 million or 20 percent of the aged roam about in the streets, begging for food or rummaging garbage bins, being forsaken by society and their children.

Children kill their parents in cold blood for money and all other kinds of crimes including murder, rape and robbery are prevalent in south Korea.

Various forms of crimes committed every day reaches 6,000.

Furthermore, series of big incidents caused many casualties and it provoked the hatred and anger of people.

A few days ago, a catastrophe such as ferry called "Sewol" capsizing off the Jindo, south Jonra Province, caused hundreds of people including a great number of students lose their lives.

The south Korean puppet authorities should be responsible for the recent incident as its anti-people policy was the main reason for it. Currently people from

all walks of life including bereaved families are furious to accuse the Pak Geun Hye-led "government" as the murderer.

The south Korean puppet group's terrorism and abduction are another example of serious human rights abuses.

It is working with bloodshot eyes to conduct terrorism and abduction of citizens of the DPRK by mobilizing the Intelligence Service, the Foreign Ministry, Unification Ministry and all other plot-breeding organizations.

This unprecedented man-hunting is being commanded by Chongwadae.

Pak Geun Hye, in June last year, spent time in "Crisis Management Room" in the underground of Chongwadae, monitoring and giving real-time instructions to the operation, linked with the abduction of a group of DPRK citizens, by the agents of south Korean embassy in a Southeast Asian country.

"DongA Ilbo", a south Korean newspaper wrote an article, exposing the "President's act" as unprecedented as she spent whole day in Chongwadae with diplomatic and security authorities, giving personal instructions to the "transfer operation of defectors to the south"; the operation was like an intelligence operation.

Agents of the puppet Intelligence Service and such anti-DPRK plot-breeding organizations including "Missionary Council of Duri Hana", "Good Friends" and "Association for Improving Human Rights in North" and terrorists and agents who go under the masks of religionists, businessmen and philanthropists, financed by the puppet authorities, go on the rampage in the northeastern area of China, abducting and luring citizens of the DPRK.

The south Korean puppet groups created the "Foundation for Defectors to south" and "Crossing Funds for Defectors". They are also involved in slave trade by giving money to the students studying in abroad, salesmen, tourists as well as criminal groups of foreign countries if they abduct the DPRK citizens. In addition, they bribe and intimidate families, relatives or friends of the abductees to forcibly bring them to the south.

They also detain our civilians in underground cells of their embassies or consulates for months or years to give psychiatric and physical stress.

Agents of intelligence services and human traffickers are involved in sexual abuse of 12 and 14 year-old children asserting that "We paid money for you all so you should listen and do whatever we demand for" and physical violation follows if the children refuse.

Those citizens of the DPRK who had been abducted by the south Korean puppet forces and taken to south Korea are interrogated at the "central joint investigation center" made up of those concerned of the puppet Intelligence Service, Unification Ministry, Defense Ministry and police for six months. They receive "anti-communist brain-washing education" for three to four months, being subject to all kinds of violence at a concentration camp called "Hana Center".

As the interrogations are conducted in a solitary cell, the number of death through intensive interrogation and torture are kept secret.

Some south Korean media try to make the world know the fact by telling the words of victims. Victims say "any treatment of POW or special measures for the

arrest and detention under the emergency martial law can't match this.", "anyone with burst appendix through physical attack during insult or forced interrogation can't have surgery." One victim says "the treatment is worse and more cruel than the one in Guantanamo Bay."

There is a story that has been made public by a woman from her own experience.

"A man of around 30 from the intelligence service agency ordered about 10 women to take off all their clothes including underwear for the health check. He touched breasts and vaginas with stick if anyone tried to hesitate. He also insulted women, saying 'trash like you have no virtue' and attempted to tear up underwear with knife from his pocket, mumbling 'if you are reluctant to take off, I will give you a hand.'

Although I asked for exception as I was pregnant, he ordered me to hold up a chair and do sit-and-stand repeatedly 300 times. 'I will help you to give birth to a healthy sibling' and that's what he said with a gruesome smile on his face.

Blood streamed down the knee and instead of hospital, I was forced to run around the ground in heavy rain. I tried to move with great pains but, at the end, I was just collapsed to the ground and had miscarriage."

How awesome and cruel atrocity it is.

Those who had been taken to south Korea are also subject to sub-human mal-treatment and humiliation.

The number of unemployed wandering around reaches more than 60% and any defector with a job will have to work in a hard and dangerous situation, receiving half of the salaries below compared with normal south Korean labourers.

Unable to eke out their living, they reside in places around mountaineering courses or garbage ground, picking up leftovers of food in day time and covering their bodies with leaves or rubbish at nights.

No place can be found for the victims of assault and suspected crimes to make complaints and this pushes those with despair walk into the ruins of crimes and end up in suicide.

Panicked by the increased number of people who wish to return to the north, the puppet groups intensified the level of surveillance and control over them in order to bind their foot and hand.

Abducted citizens of the DPRK are detained in solitary confinement on the charge of suspected "spy" and threatened with torture and others for the false statements.

The recent "spy" case of a public official in Seoul which stirred public criticism is another example of such theories.

After arresting the official, the "defector to the south", under the suspicion of "spy", the IS agents summoned his sister from China and confined her for 6 months. During this period, they used torture together with appeasement and deception to get false statement which will be provided for the prosecution of her brother.

However, during the court trial, she confessed that she gave false statement due to the pressure by IS agents. Furthermore, it was disclosed that all the documents including the ones in third country which served as evidence were all faked. All theses added to the true nature of the fabricated "Spy Case of Defector to the south".

There are many abducted people that have been prosecuted and executed on the charge of "spy".

The south Korean puppet forces did not hesitate to commit hair-raising atrocities against distressed citizens of the DPRK who went adrift to south Korea.

The south Korean puppet army gangsters confined 31 DPRK citizens in February, 2011 and threatened and physically attacked them for 50 days to let them defect to the south. Those citizens were drifting away in the West Sea of Korea when they were spotted. In the end, south Korean authorities never returned 4 citizens.

Those whom the puppet forces did not send back to the north after kidnapping them when their boats were wrecked in the sea numbered more than 60 in the past five years.

Recently naval forces of the puppet army do not hesitate to intrude to the waters of the DPRK and conduct atrocities of abducting peaceful fish boats and their members.

In March, the pirate like military gangsters led by Second-Squadron of south Korean navy fired to the DPRK fish boat, which was drifting away due to the engine failure, and knocked down the fishermen with metal bars and blinded their eyes in order to take them to Paekryong island. As the puppet group's intimidation of our citizens to defect was not successful, they reluctantly returned all the members as they countered with our strong warning.

All facts go to prove that the puppet forces are a group of the worst human rights abusers and hideous criminals.

It is the culmination of brazen-faced act for the puppet group to conduct smear campaign against the DPRK, raising one's "human rights" issues.

Feared with the promising future and soaring spirit of the DPRK, it is seen as the last-ditch efforts by the puppet group.

Any disjointed remarks by south Korean puppet group on "human rights" in the DPRK will be regarded as a dog barking at the moon.

The group should first deal with the serious human rights issues in south Korea rather than the non-existent "human rights" issues in the DPRK.

As they try to conduct anti-DPRK smear campaign under the pretext of "human rights", the consequence will be like "Curses, like chickens, come home to roost."

The U.S. and the south Korean puppet group should give an immediate end to the reckless anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign.

We express the expectation and conviction that the world justice and conscience will heighten vigilance against the anti-human rights burlesque of those forces hostile toward the DPRK, pay due attention to the worst human rights situation in south Korea and become vocal censuring the human rights abusers.